

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claim 23 is amended. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 23 was objected to. Claims 1-22 were allowed.

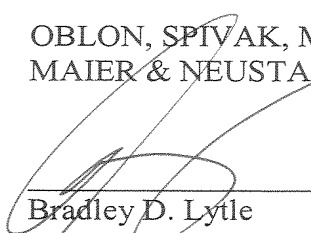
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-22.

Claim 23 is amended to recite "the diffraction unit being a phase-modulated type diffraction grating and being controlled based on the portion detected by the recording area discrimination unit," as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Consequently, the objection to Claim 23 is believed to be overcome.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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